

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, March 27, 2000

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 27, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD A. PEASE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

We pray to You, Almighty God, and eternal God, ever-present to all our undertakings and all our needs. Touch every aspect of our lives with Your holiness. Endow us with faith as we begin a new week and these activities in the House of Representatives of the 106th Congress.

May Your Divine Wisdom direct all of our deliberations and be revealed in all the proceedings and laws framed by this government.

May the gracious work of Your Spirit in us preserve peace, promote national happiness and increase in the people of this Nation, dedication to industry, a sense of compassion for others and useful knowledge, so that the blessings of so many in this country may be extended to all with equal liberty.

May this House and this Nation be preserved in unity and enjoy the peace which the world cannot give, a deep and abiding peace, which is Your gift alone to give. We pray to You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DUNCAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2559. An act to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to strengthen the safety net for agricultural producers by providing greater access to more affordable risk management tools and improved protection from production and income loss, to improve the efficiency and integrity of the Federal crop insurance program, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2559) "An Act to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to strengthen the safety net for agricultural producers by providing greater access to more affordable risk management tools and improved protection from production and income loss, to improve the efficiency and integrity of the Federal crop insurance program, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. LUGAR, Mr. HELMS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. KERREY, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SENATOR STEVENS CHOSEN ALASKAN OF THE CENTURY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NETHERCUTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to one of our colleagues, who happens to be from the other body, who received a very distinguished award this weekend. The recipient of that award was Senator TED STEVENS of Alaska who was chosen as the Alaskan of the Century.

Now, this is a remarkable achievement by Senator STEVENS, since he has

served this Congress for over 30 years and served the State of Alaska with great distinction and great honor and integrity for more than that period of time.

I became acquainted with Senator STEVENS as a younger man in 1972 when I was finishing the service, as a law clerk for a Federal judge in Anchorage, Alaska, and was hired by Senator STEVENS, came back here to Washington, D.C. in 1972, and served on his staff as his staff counsel and legislative director and then chief of staff, until I got married and left this community of Washington, D.C. and the Congress in 1977.

Senator STEVENS during that time and ever since has been a wonderful teacher for me and a great friend of our family, as he has been for a generation of Alaskans who have come to respect him and his work in the United States Senate and his work for our country, as well as his work for the State of Alaska.

There is no greater advocate for the State of Alaska and for the American system than Senator STEVENS. It is absolutely fitting that he receive this Alaskan of the Century award. He has served Alaska as a resident before statehood and after statehood.

He served in the Alaska legislature achieving high marks there for his service to the State, worked for the solicitor for the Department of Interior before statehood, and then was appointed to the United States Senate in 1968, and has been reelected overwhelmingly ever since.

Senator STEVENS brings a respect for his State and our system to the Congress of the United States. He was elected as the assistant majority leader in the United States Senate. He went on to become chairman of the Committee on Appropriations in the Senate, a position which he holds today, with a special expertise in interior issues and public lands issues, and also a great experience in defense issues.

There probably is no greater expert in the area of national security and national defense than Senator STEVENS. The residents of Alaska recognize that, and, in choosing him to be the Alaskan of the Century, confirmed their love for him and reward him in essence for his great service to that State; a reward that he has undertaken with great passion and great commitment.

Senator STEVENS is not just a great legislator and a great American, he is a wonderful father to Susan and Beth and Teddy and Walter and Ben and

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Lilly. He is a champion for them, as well as a champion for all others in Alaska of all economic levels and all races and backgrounds. The Alaskan Native community has recognized the STEVENS legacy by respecting him, not only with their votes, but with their support.

The Alaskan Native Land Claims Settlement Act was one that Senator STEVENS championed to settle the claims of the first Alaskans. And in doing so, he has endeared himself in their hearts and in the hearts of all Alaskans. The TransAlaska Pipeline project that was just a monumental undertaking that brought energy, efficiency, and assistance to the rest of the Nation was spearheaded by this man. The 2000 Mile Fishing Limit was spearheaded by this man, Senator STEVENS.

As you total up a person's contributions in life, I think TED STEVENS' greatest are his contributions, as I say, as a father, as a husband to Ann Stevens, who tragically was deceased in 1978, and his current wife, Catherine, also a great supporter of the Alaskan system.

So I speak, I hope, on behalf of all Members of Congress in recognizing TED STEVENS' great contributions and congratulating him for being Alaskan of the Century.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded that personal references to sitting Members of the other body are not to be included in remarks in debate in the House.

AIR WAR AGAINST SERBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, in today's Scripps-Howard newspapers around the Nation is an editorial entitled "Unhappy Anniversary." It reads in part, "after its ill-advised air war against Serbia that started a year ago this month and concluded with the deaths of many innocent civilians, NATO finds itself administering a stalemate with no evident means of disengaging. The outcome certainly has not been a happy one for NATO."

All around the world, NATO is seen as the U.S., and I think it is obvious that this war would never have been started if the White House had not insisted on it.

How easily, how cavalierly we say those words "air war" that "concluded with the deaths of many innocent civilians."

We made the situation much worse and many thousands more were made homeless or killed by what we did

there. Billions of dollars of U.S. taxpayer money down the drain and billions in damage done by U.S.-NATO bombs. And around the world, the U.S. is seen more and more as a big bully trying to run the whole world instead of taking care of our own country.

The globalist elites in this administration who are not satisfied just running the U.S. are making more enemies than friends for this country. We are being seen around the world as continually butting our nose into situations that are none of our business.

As the Scripps-Howard editorial says, "Kosovo is basically a problem for Europe and its institutions," or at least it should be, and it always was.

Many months ago, at the end of the air war, William Ratliff and David Oppenheimer wrote a column in The Washington Times which said in part, "NATO's bombings precipitated floods of refugees and other disasters that have destabilized the region in political, economic, and other terms far beyond what Mr. Milosevic could have ever done on his own."

They added, "Since for most people NATO is America, this war has reignited anti-Americanism and suspicion of U.S. intentions from Argentina to China. Most people do not believe this war was to defend human rights, particularly since we harmed so many innocent people in and far beyond the Central Balkans."

The Washington Post reported a few days ago that our soldiers are now having to fight and take weapons away from the ethnic Albanians, the very people we supposedly went in originally to help.

Today's Scripps-Howard editorial says, "the Serbians weren't killing as many ethnic Albanians as contemporary accounts claimed," adding this "in Kosovo today, the ethnic Albanians are intent on revenge on the dwindling number of remaining Serbs, Kosovar courts and police are corrupt and inefficient, and the still heavily armed Kosovo Liberation Army is staging cross-border raids into parts of Serbia."

In other words, Mr. Speaker, the situation is a mess, and as Scripps Howard says today, "Kosovo is a tragic example of where President Clinton ordered bombs instead of continuing with diplomacy."

Why is it important that we talk about these things now since this air war ended months ago? Well, for two very important reasons.

First, we need to talk about this so we will not make these mistakes again. There are always numerous shooting wars going on around the world, some right now worse than Kosovo was when we went in.

Second, this week, presently scheduled for Wednesday, the House is scheduled to take up a \$9 billion supplemental appropriations bill, \$4.95 bil-

lion, almost 5 billion of which is for our expenses in Kosovo.

This 5 billion is on top of all the billions this stupid war cost us when we were doing all the bombing. We are told that we have to pass this supplemental bill because the military has already spent this money by taking it from other accounts. However, we gave the Pentagon a huge increase in spending with the fiscal year that started just 5 months ago, about a \$17 billion or \$18 billion increase.

This supplemental bill, just a couple of months ago, when people started talking about it was less than half what it is now with all the things that have been added to it.

What we need now, though, is what syndicated columnist Doug Bandow calls a foreign policy for a Republic not an Empire, one that puts our country and its security first and does not have us wasting billions and making millions of enemies trying to be the policeman of the world.

We will make many more friends by bombing only as an absolute last resort and only when our own national security is threatened or a very vital U.S. interest is at stake, neither of which was the case in Kosovo.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. NETHERCUTT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 28, 2000, at 12:30 p.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6770. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Imported Fire Ant; Quarantined Areas and Treatment [Docket No. 98-125-2] received January 31, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6771. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Dairy Tariff-Rate